

Ryan Hydroelectric Facility,
Barn
Great Falls Vicinity
Cascade County
Montana

HAER No. MT-98-B

HAER
MONT
7-GREFA
3B-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
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Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RYAN HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,
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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The Ryan Hydroelectric Facility is on the Missouri River approximately seven miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana. The barn at the facility stands 2300 feet southeast of the powerhouse. It and several other resources at Ryan contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District.

Quad: Morony Dam, Mont.

UTM: Zone 12: 491570 Easting; 5268920 Northing

Date of Construction: c. 1928

Present Owner: The Montana Power Company

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District is significant for its association with the industrial development of Montana and the consolidation of most of the state's electric industry into The Montana Power Company. The district is also associated with John D. Ryan, a promoter of hydroelectric development at Great Falls. In addition, it has excellent representative examples of hydroelectric plant technologies and architectural designs from the early twentieth century. The barn at the Ryan Hydroelectric Facility contributes to the significance of the district for its association with construction of permanent operators' camps by the utility as a means to provide efficient operation and maintenance of their isolated power facilities.

Historian: Mary McCormick
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II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BARN

The barn (MPC No. 18) at the Ryan Hydroelectric Facility stands on an isolated terrace remnant between the bank of the Missouri River and the bottom of a the steep cliff, more than 300 feet below the other buildings at the operators' camp (figure 1). The building faces toward the southeast. Montana Power records indicated that it was constructed around 1928.¹ The barn appears to have been abandoned for several years.

The barn is a 1½ story, wood-frame building measuring 16'4" wide (southwest-northeast) x 20'4" long (southeast-northwest). It rests on timber sills and is topped by a front gable roof. The exterior walls are covered by drop siding with a 5" exposure. A large entryway pierces the front (southeast) wall. This opening is protected by a sliding door constructed of horizontal boards and suspended on a metal runner with decorative, pressed-metal supports. The number "18" in metal is tacked on the door. Other openings in the building include two windows on the southwest wall; a loft opening in the front (southeast) gable end; and a loft opening and window in the rear (northwest) gable end. None of these openings retain window glass or covers. The building's gable roof system is composed of a roof beam; 2"x 6" rafters on 2' centers; and board decking surfaced with a few remaining wood shingles. The northwest end of the roof beam projects slightly beyond the gable end wall and holds the remains of a pulley, presumably once used to lift hay to the loft opening.

The interior of the barn is divided into two levels. The main level is open, but partial walls separate a livestock stall and rabbit hutch in the north half (figure 2). The livestock stall has wood flooring raised on timbers and a wood feeding bin along the exterior wall. Floors elsewhere are dirt. Walls are unfinished, leaving the 2"x4" studs on 2' centers exposed. A wooden ladder attached to the southwest wall provides access to the loft. This level is an open and unfinished space.

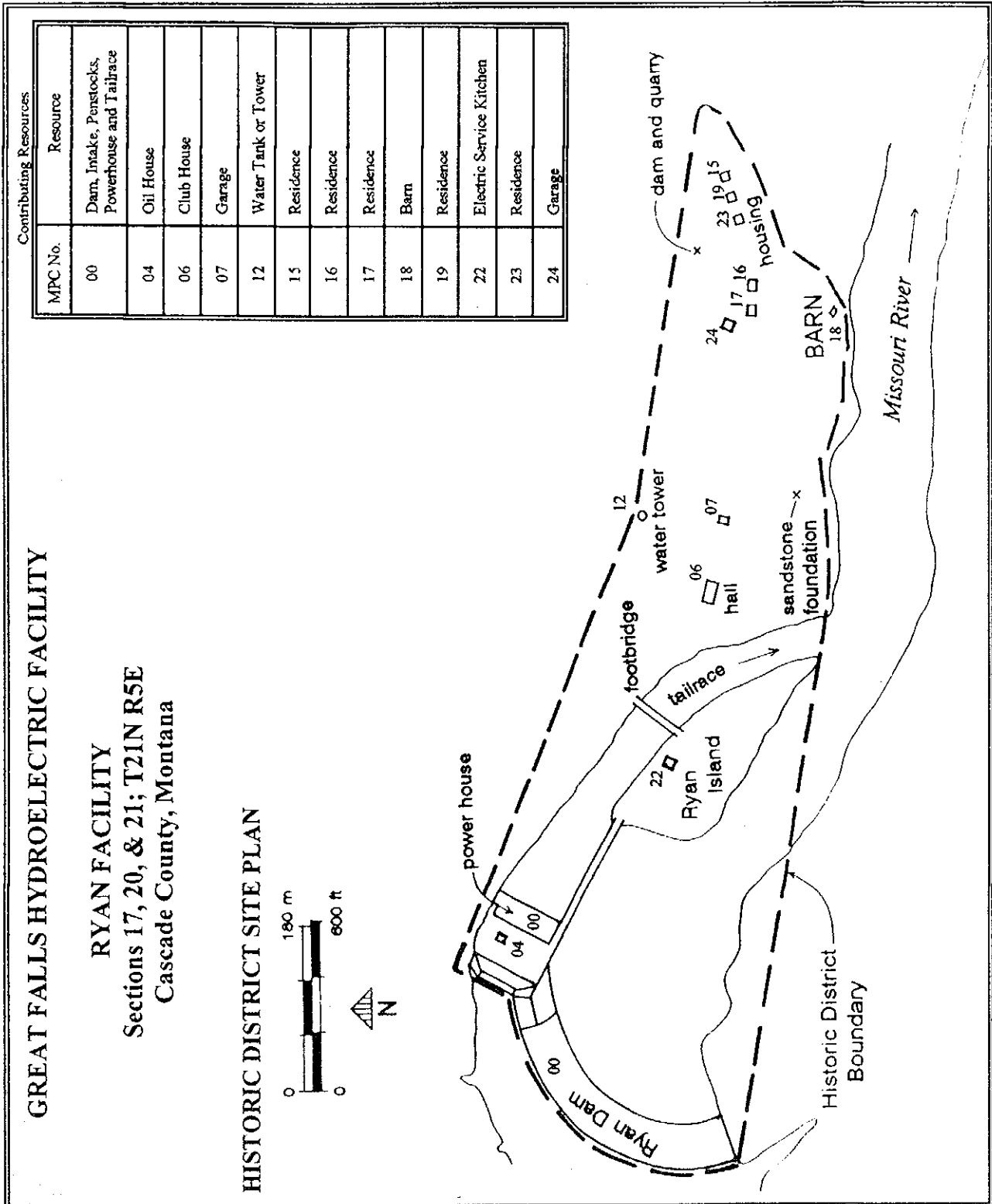


Figure 1. Ryan Hydroelectric Facility
Site Map

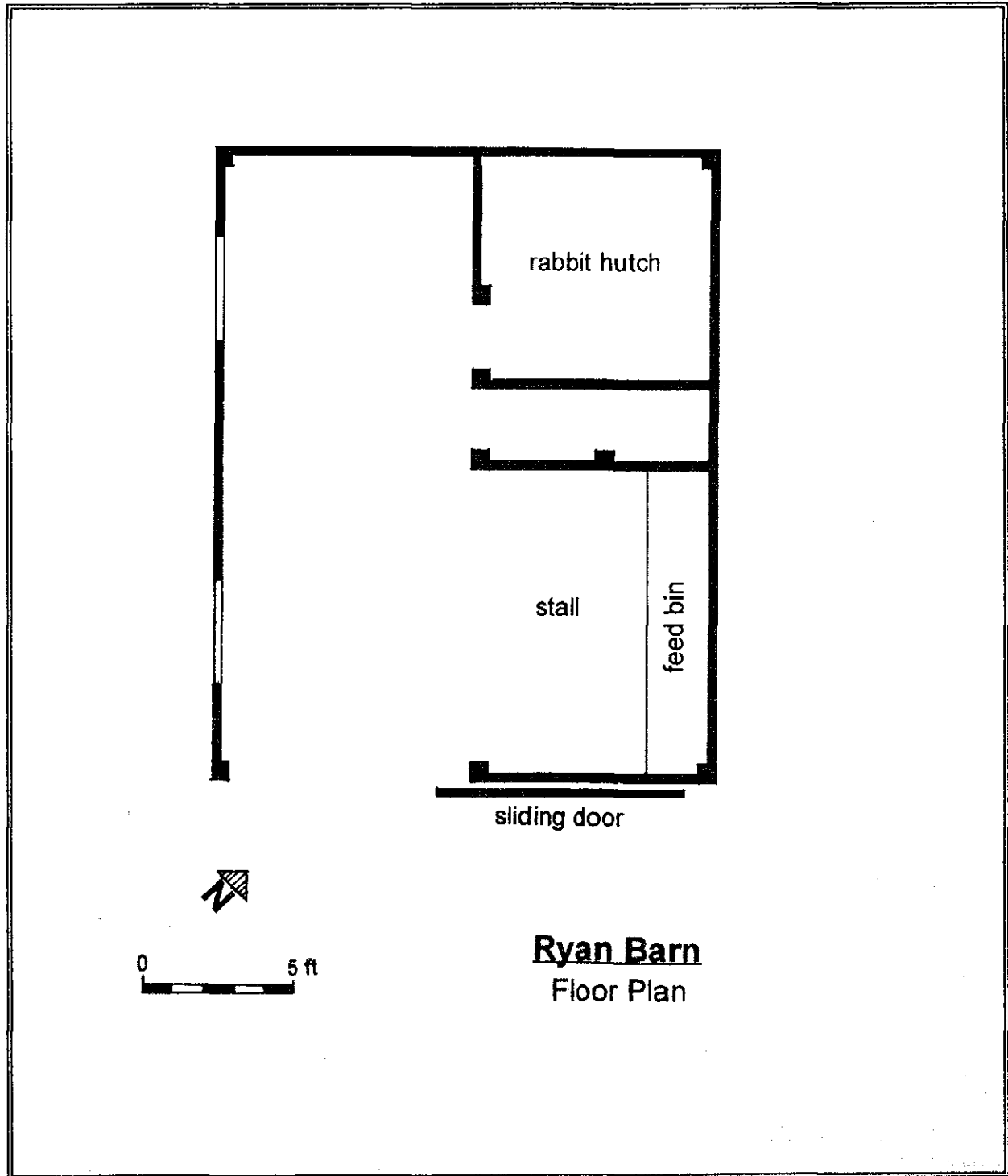


Figure 2. Barn Main Floor Plan.

III. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the barn at the Ryan Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). The Company has sponsored recording the building to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record.

IV. ENDNOTES

1. Montana Power Company, *Insurance Map of Volta*, February 1912, revised to May 1940, MPC Drawing No. 214717-E at Drafting Services, The Montana Power Company, Butte; Montana Power Company, "Reclassification of Electric Plant," 1937, vol 1, report at the Office of the Controller, The Montana Power Company, Butte; Montana Power Company, "Appraisal of Property on Basis of Reproduction Cost New, 1941, report at the Office of the Controller, The Montana Power Company, Butte.

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Montana Power Company. "Appraisal of Property on Basis of Reproduction Cost New." 1941. Report at the Office of the Controller, The Montana Power Company, Butte.

_____. *Insurance Map of Volta, Montana*. February 1921, revised to May 1940. MPC Drawing No. 21417-E at Drafting Services, The Montana Power Company, Butte.

_____. "Reclassification of Electric Plant." Vol. I. 1937. Report at the Office of the Controller, The Montana Power Company, Butte.